

**Taunton River Trail: Meeting Summary Memo 10.8.2019**

**Memo to:** Phil Duarte, Taunton Pathways Committee

**Attendees:** *TMLP Commission:*  
Peter Corr, Joseph Martin, Mark Blackwell, Sr., Robert G. Funke, Ken Goulart

*Taunton Pathways Committee:*  
Phil Duarte

*Brown, Richardson & Rowe (BRR):*  
Nina Brown, James Pfeiffer

**Meeting Objective:**

The purpose of this meeting was to present the Taunton River Trail (TRT) project to the Commission. Phil introduced the project and team members. He reminded the Commission about the last meeting with members of the TMLP in June.

**Items Discussed:**

James Pfeiffer (BRR) gave a presentation about the project, similar to the presentation at the public meeting in June. He noted that there will be another public meeting in late winter/early spring of 2020 to present the final design. The presentation consisted of an overview of the trail route, a description of basic details as well as a display of typical amenities that might be found on a trail of this length.

James Pfeiffer described that the project is broken up into two phases. Phase 1 is between Weir Village Riverfront Park and Cleary Flood Drive on TMLP property. Phase 2 is between Cleary Flood Drive and Railroad Avenue. It was noted that Phase 2 will be undertaken by the TMLP as part of their solar field project with the exception of the Railroad Avenue area. This area will be designed and engineered by BRR and Stantec. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the current status of the project as well as next steps. For Phase 1, those are:

- Additional survey that has been requested by Stantec,
- A preliminary design and estimate that are expected this month,
- Final design public meeting that is anticipated to be held in winter/spring, 2020, and
- Bidding and construction that is anticipated to take place in spring/summer, 2020.

The next steps for Phase 2 include:

- The preliminary layout of the trail and solar access road that is in progress,
- The construction of the solar field project and the Phase 2 trail that will be undertaken by TMLP with the exception of the Railroad Avenue trailhead, and
- Coordination between TMLP, BETA, BRR and Stantec that is necessary for the crossing at Cleary Flood Drive and the Railroad Avenue trailhead.

After the presentation, Ken Goulart offered some additional comments. He reiterated TMLP's commitments and stated that the TMLP is waiting on input from BETA and the DPW regarding the possible wastewater infiltration project. He said that TMLP is looking at next summer for construction of the solar field.

Q: Will there be a Phase 3?

A: The Town of Dighton is working on a portion of the trail in their community. This project will involve crossing the Three Mile River and dealing with the Aquaria property. Phil Duarte also described a spur of the TRT that goes to the west from Railroad Avenue to connect to the Boyden Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ken Goulart described that Dan deAbreu will be working on easements with the TMLP. Ken would like an easement draft for review. Phil Duarte noted that he and Dan have been working on a draft.

Steve Cote, the plant manager at the Cleary Flood Station noted that the Commission approved the TMLP assisting with the trail around the solar field. Ken stated that the TMLP agreed to incorporate the bike path from Cleary Flood Drive to the end of the solar field. TMLP needs an access road. Therefore, the path and access road could be done as one project. The TMLP will be paying for the engineering of the roadway.

Joseph Martin asked about the status of the solar array. Ken replied that a consultant has been hired, but the array has not gone out to bid yet. There are concept drawings. BETA is not working on the solar array project. TMLP is planning to do the construction in 2020. Ken noted that originally, the Taunton Pathways Committee wanted the trail to follow the old railroad right of way through TMLP property. Due to security and utility laws regarding the proximity of the trail to the Cleary Flood plant, that route is prohibited. Mark Blackwell, Sr. noted that because the alignment ended up going around the solar field, the TMLP needed an access road.

Ken Goulart suggested a meeting between the TMLP, Pathways Committee, BRR and Stantec to discuss the details of Phase 2. Ken will reach out to those groups to set up the meeting.